

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112423
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 PM-05 DODE-00 SS-15
L-03 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /056 R

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R 031526Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT

SUBJECT: CADILLAC GAGE ARMORED CARS FOR GUATEMALA

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM EX-CELL-O CORPORATION'S SUBSIDIARY, THE CADILLAC-GAGE COMPANY, A REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE USG WOULD APPROVE THE SALE AND EXPORT OF A QUANTITY OF COMMANDO V-150 ARMORED CARS FOR GUATEMALA. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY TRANSFERRED THE V-150 TO PANAMA, BUT NOT ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IN THIS CASE THE COMPANY ADVISES THAT "A SALE IN EXCESS OF \$7 MILLION COULD RESULT". THIS COSTS OUT TO OVER SIXTY UNITS, WHICH IF EQUIPPED WITH LARGE BORE WEAPONS WOULD REPRESENT A FORMIDABLE FORCE.

GIVEN THE SENSITIVITIES WHICH SURROUND SALES OF SUCH MATERIEL IN THE CONTEXT OF TENSIONS OVER BELIZE, AND POSSIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS, THE EMBASSY IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 112423

REQUESTED TO PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PURPOSE TO WHICH THE GOG WILL PUT THE V-150'S. FURTHER, INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONFIGURATION PLANNED - PARTICULARLY THE NATURE OF THE ORDNANCE - IS NEEDED.

DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE NO ACTION ON THE EX-CELL-O REQUEST PENDING RECEIPT OF EMBASSY REPORT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 03 may 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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